THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. II---NO. 211. BALTIMORE, MONDAY, MAY 26 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

MARRIED.

On the 13th instant, by Rev. Mr. Gobeen, J. CLIFTON GALSSMITH to SOPHIA L., daughter of Capt. Hy. L. Hall, all of this city.

On the 21 instant, by Rev. Henry Elbert, WILLIAM RAY to Miss SARAH HINDES, all of this city.

On the 22d instant, by Rev. J. Hodgden, ROBERT HENSON to Mrs. ELIZABETH WOOLCUTT, both of this city.

DIED

On Sunday morning the 25th inst., J. D. READEL, aged 11 months, youngest son of Spencer and Mary W. Noble. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral on this Monday afternoon, at 4 o'clock.

On the 23d instant, FRANCIS McCORMICK, Sr., a native of County Mayo, Ireland, aged 77 years.

On the 22d instant, DANIEL O'BRIEN, aged 20 years, a native of the County Limerick, Ireland.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States a bill from the House was reported making an appropriation of about five millions of dollars for bounties. A bill was introduced to amend the Fugitive Slave law by providing for trial by jury, and allowing both claimant and fugitive to testify, and permitting either to take out a bill of exception. The debate on the tax bill was resumed.

In the House of Representatives, on Saturday, the debate on the confiscation bill was resumed, and was continued up to the hour of adjournment.

Whilst McClellan is pushing cautiously his approaches towards Richmond, and Halleck is moving his columns slowly upon Corinth, intrenching himself at each step, there comes to us news of startling interest from all quarters of Western Virginia.—Day by day, for the past ten days, the telegrams of the Associated Press have chronicled the partial withdrawal of the forces under Gen. Banks from their advanced posts at Harrisburg, to the line of the Potomac. The affair at Bull Mountain, where Milroy and Schenck, after a severe battle, in which the former lost his entire baggage train, and both, after sustaining a serious loss in killed and wounded, were compelled to retreat upon Franklin and thence in the direction of New Creek, indicated, conclusively, that the Confederates had been heavily reinforced in that quarter. A portion of the command of Shields also suffered some loss subsequently on the Shenandoah river. Two companies of Geary's command were surprised by a body of cavalry, at or near Linden, where the railroad from Manassas Junction passes through the Gap in the mountain, and now we learn from the official report of General Banks, that Colonel Kenly's command, consisting of the First Maryland regiment and a battalion of cavalry, has been driven from Front Royal, a village on the same Railroad, but on the west side of the mountain, and distant about ten miles from Strasburg. General Banks estimates the strength of the attacking force at "five or six thousand," and adds that Kenly's loss in killed, wounded and prisoners, was considerable. The Washington *Star* of Saturday evening enters into particulars. From that source, we are informed that Kenly's command consisted of his own Maryland regiment of infantry and three or four companies of Colonel Broadhead's regiment of Michigan cavalry. Most of the cavalry escaped; but the *Star* fears that most of the infantry were captured. General Banks, in his despatch to the War Department, thought it was probable that the Confederates occupied Front Royal, and the *Star* states that information subsequently received makes it certain that they do so, and that "direct communication with the main body of General Banks' force—via Manassas Junction—is temporarily cut off."

From the head-quarters of Gen. McClellan, May 23d, we learn that the Federal troops crossed the Chickahominy on Thursday last, and were advanced a mile and a half beyond the west bank of that stream. General Stoneman was with his cavalry at New Bridge, a strong guard of the enemy being visible on the other side of the Chickahominy Creek. The advance of the army is stated to be within seven miles of Richmond, and the public is admonished that its further progress must be necessarily slow, in order that the main body shall come up prepared for any emergency.

The state of affairs on Saturday was very similar to that which has prevailed for several days past. There were the skirmishes during the day, in one of which the Confederates were driven from Mechanicsville, seven miles from New Bridge, the Louisiana Tigers losing fifty killed and fifty taken prisoners in a conflict with the 4th Michigan regiment.

At the last advices General Banks had returned to Winchester, "for the purpose of securing his stores and trains from the enemy, and to prevent his communication from being interrupted." He is said to have repulsed an attack upon his trains at Middletown, and, having been strongly reinforced, will return immediately to Strasburg. Colonel Kenly it is now said was not killed, as reported, at Front Royal, but was wounded and taken prisoner. Colonel Geary is posted at White Plains, on the Manassas Railroad. He also has been reinforced.

A still later despatch received by the War Department, states that General Banks was attacked at Winchester yesterday and fell back to Harper's Ferry and Martinsburg. The enemy is said to be in force, and there are many reports current that the Confederate army has left Richmond and moved north to take the offensive.

On the other hand, the War Department has received a despatch, by way of Cincinnati, which states that Colonel Crook, on Friday last, with thirteen hundred men, defeated the Confederates under Colonel Heth at Lewisburg, Greenbrier county, Va., with a loss much greater than his own, and captured four cannon, two hundred stand of arms and about one hundred prisoners.

From Southern papers we learn that Commodore Farragut has appeared off Vick burg, Mississippi, and demanded the surrender of the town. The answer returned, according to a despatch from Jackson, was—"If you want the city, come and take it." Upon this refusal, the gunboats were ordered to move up towards the city for the purpose of commencing the bombardment. Commodore Farragut had ordered the removal of the women and children within twenty-four hours, but a longer delay was asked. Governor Pettus had called for four thousand additional troops to protect the city.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

The steamer Adelaide arrived from Fortress Monroe on Saturday morning, but brought no news. Persons at Old Point, except the officials, are as ignorant of the operations of the army as the people of Baltimore. It is not supposed that the battle has yet commenced. It may, however, take place at any moment, as the forces are within sight of each other. It is reported that the Confederates are over one hundred and seventy thousand strong.

The steamer Georgeanna arrived from Fortress Monroe about six o'clock yesterday morning. It is reported that there was skirmishing all along the lines on yesterday, and in all the fights the Federal troops were successful. The principal skirmish took place at Bottom Bridge, in which, it is said, the Louisiana Zouaves suffered severely. It was thought that a grand engagement would take place within a day or two.

THE OPERA.—The Opera on Tuesday night promises to be one of great success. Miss Kellogg has never sung in this city, and the excellent reputation which she enjoys, has incited a great desire in the public to hear her. As *Marie*, in the *Daughter of the Regiment*, her powers will be fully developed, and the public can rest assured that this Opera will be given with greater effect than it has ever been in this city. Brignoli, as *Tunio*, (a favorite character,) and Susini, as *Sulpizio*, will have an opportunity of exhibiting their rare powers to an eminent degree. Gottschalk will perform several pieces on the piano. This, alone, is sufficient to attract an immense audience, as his known ability is conceded by all who have ever heard him. Tickets are for sale at Messrs. Miller & Beachum's, on Charles street, and those who desire good seats should secure them at once.

GARRISON ON THE PRESIDENT.

From the Boston Courier, May 24.

"Garrison at large," might properly enough describe the happy delivery of himself by this sensible and amiable individual, in the *Liberator* of this week. He thus mildly discourses upon a variety of distinguished characters:

"All honor to Gen. Hunter, and cheer upon cheer until the welkin rings; and shame and confusion of face to the President for his halting, shuffling, backward policy! By his veto, he has disgusted and alienated the trust friends of freedom universally, and gratified the malignity of the enemies of his administration who are at heart traitors, and represented by such papers as Bennett's *Herald*, the New York *Express*, the *Journal of Commerce*, the Boston *Courier* and *Post*, and other journals of the same satanic stripe."

A FALSE DOCUMENT.—The *Courier des Etats Unis* announces on the authority of M. de Clouet, Captain of the French steamer Milan, that the protest said to have been addressed by him to Commodore Farragut at New Orleans, was not authentic. No such letter was written by him.

The New York *Post* states that seven hundred and fifty sick and wounded soldiers from General McClellan's army reached that city on Friday, and were properly cared for.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM GEN. BANKS' ARMY.

COL. KENLEY'S COMMAND DRIVEN FROM FRONT ROYAL BY THE REBELS WITH CONSIDERABLE LOSS.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The following despatch was this morning received from Gen. Banks, at the War Department:

STRASBURG, May 24.

Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

Colonel Kenley's command of infantry (First Maryland regiment) and cavalry has been driven from Front Royal, with considerable loss in killed, wounded and prisoners. The enemy's force is estimated at five or six thousand. It is reported as having fallen back on Front Royal, and probably occupies that place this morning.

[Signed] N. P. BANKS,
Major-General Commanding.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

General Banks Removes His Stores and Trains to Winchester—The Engagement at Front Royal—Colonel Kenly Wounded and Taken Prisoner.

WASHINGTON, May 25, Midnight.—Despatches were received at the War Department at 10 o'clock to-night from General Banks, at Winchester.

He had moved with his advance from Strasburg to Winchester, for the purpose of securing his stores and trains from the enemy, and to prevent his communications from being interrupted. His advanced guard entered Winchester at 5 o'clock with all his stores and trains in safety.

A strong attack was made upon the trains at Middletown by the Rebel infantry, cavalry and artillery, but it was repulsed, and a few wagons taken prisoner.

No particulars of the engagement at Front Royal have been received. The enemy are in possession of Front Royal.

General Geary occupies a strong position on the Manassas Railroad at White Plains. He has been reinforced. General Banks has also been strongly reinforced.

[LATER.]

The Rebels Attack Gen Banks in Force at Winchester—He Falls Back to Winchester and Harper's Ferry—The Rebels About to Assume the Offensive.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—Despatches received by the War Department state that General Banks was attacked at Winchester this morning, and has fallen back towards Martinsburg and Harper's Ferry. The enemy are reported to be in large force, and many reports state that the Rebel force has left Richmond and moved North to take the offensive.

A BATTLE AT WINCHESTER.

General Bank's Compelled to Retreat into Maryland—The Enemy Advancing on Harper's Ferry.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—The enemy under Generals Ewell and Johnson, with a largely superior force, gave battle to General Banks' this morning at Winchester, commencing at daylight. General Banks fought them for six hours and then retired in the direction of Martinsburg, which what loss is unknown.

The enemy are, it is understood, advancing from Winchester upon Harper's Ferry. Our troops there are being rapidly reinforced.

Rumor says that Jackson is advancing to the support of Ewell and Johnson, and there are also statements that still another force is behind him.—Prompt arrangements have been made to meet these emergencies, if truly reported.

Gen. McClellan reports favorable progress in front of Richmond.

Gen. Halleck has been joined by Gen. Curtis with the force under his command.

A later despatch, received tonight, says that Gen. Banks has made good his retreat across the Potomac at Williamsport.

Gen. Rufus Saxton is in command at Harper's Ferry.

THE LATEST FROM GEN. BANKS.

The Rebels Threaten to Enter Maryland

HEADQUARTERS BEYOND MARTINSBURG, May 25—5.30, P. M.

A prisoner captured this afternoon says that the rebel force in our rear is to be strengthened. That their purpose is to enter Maryland at two points, Harper's Ferry and Williamsport. He confirms all that we have heard in regard to the force there.—We all passed the Potomac to-night, safe, men, trains and all, I think, making a march of thirty-five miles.

[Signed] N. P. BANKS,
Major-General Commanding.

[FURTHER PARTICULARS.]

Official Report From Gen. Banks.

HEADQUARTERS
MARTINSBURG, May 25, 2 40 P. M.

Hon E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

The Rebels attacked us this morning at daybreak in great force. Their number was estimated at fifteen thousand, consisting of Ewell's and Johnson's divisions. The fire of the pickets began with the light, and was followed up by the artillery, until the whole lines were fully under fire on both sides.

The left wing stood firmly, holding its ground well, and the right did the same for a time, when two regiments broke the lines, under the fire of the enemy. The right wing fell back and was ordered to withdraw, and the troops passed through the town in considerable confusion. They were quickly reformed on the other side, and continued their march in good order to Martinsburg, where they arrived at 2.40 P. M., a distance of twenty-two miles.

Our trains are in advance, and will cross the river in safety. Our entire force engaged was less than four thousand, consisting of Gordon's and Donnelly's brigades, with two regiments of cavalry, under General Hatch, and two batteries of artillery. Our loss is considerable, as was that of the enemy, but cannot now be stated. We were reinforced by the 10th Maine, which did good service, and a regiment of cavalry.

N. P. BANKS,
Maj. Gen. Commanding.

FROM THE MOUNTAIN DEPARTMENT.

A SEVERE FIGHT.

THE ENEMY ROUTED WITH CONSIDERABLE LOSS.

Four Cannon, Two Hundred Stand of Arms and One Hundred Prisoners Taken.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The following despatch, from the Mountain Department, has been received via Cincinnati to-day:

Col. Heth with 3,000 Rebels, attacked our forces under Col. Crook, yesterday morning, at Lewisburg, (Greenbrier Co., Va.,) and after a severe fight, the enemy were driven back and completely routed.—Col. Crook's force numbered 1 300 men. Our loss is ten killed and forty wounded and eight missing. The enemy's loss was much greater.

We captured four cannon, two of them rifled, 200 stand of arms and about 100 prisoners, including one Lieut. Colonel, one Major and several Captains and Lieutenants.

IMPORTANT FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Crossing of the Chickahominy—Shelling out of the Rebels at New Bridge.

[*Army Correspondence of the Associated Press.*]

HEADQUARTERS OF GEN. MCCLELLAN,
10 miles from Richmond, May 23,

Our troops crossed the Chickahominy yesterday, both at Bottom's Bridge and at the Railroad bridge, and now occupy a position one and a half miles beyond. A few of the enemy's pickets only were seen. In front of the advance under General Stoneman, at New Bridge, a strong guard of the enemy is still visible on the opposite side of the creek. Their presence will not interfere with the crossing of our troops when the proper time comes.

A large number of men have been detailed for the building of a number of bridges at different points on the creek.

The balloon ascension made to-day by Professor Lowe gave no assurance of the enemy being in considerable force near at hand. From the best information that can be ascertained the enemy have settled in a position between three and four miles this side of Richmond, to meet the Federal troops.

The advance of the army now being within seven miles of Richmond its further progress must necessarily be slow, in order that the main body shall come up to be prepared to meet any emergency that may occur in approaching the capital of Rebeldom.

Very little firing was heard to-day in the direction of the position held by our gunboats on the James river.

The moral condition and the vigor of the Army of the Potomac are doubtless equal to that of any army in the world, and for these characteristics it is, in great measure, indebted to its energetic Provost Marshal, Brig. Gen. Andrew Porter. The condition of the troops in passing through Virginia has most probably presented a favorable contrast to the Rebel army in the minds of the people, as also the course pursued by our military authorities generally.

[LATER.]

HEADQUARTERS GENERAL MCCLELLAN,
May 24.

The only matter of interest which occurred to-day was the shelling out of the Rebels on the opposite side of the river at New Bridge, which was done in a most satisfactory manner by the battery of Major Robertson and Capt. Pithall, of the 21 artillery. The enemy made no response, but suddenly broke camp and left with their baggage trains.

The balloon made an excursion near one of the batteries, and from its elevated position, observation was made of the effect of the different shots, which was communicated to those in charge of the battery.

General Marcy and a portion of General McClellan's staff were present, and witnessed the precipitate retreat of the enemy.

There is nothing further worthy of note from the direction of Richmond to-day.

[THE LATEST.]

Three Skirmishes—The Louisiana Tigers Used Up by the Fourth Michigan.

WASHINGTON, May 24, P. M.—A despatch to the War Department, from General McClellan, states as follows:

"Three skirmishes to-day. We drove the Rebels from Mechanicsville, seven miles from New Bridge. The 4th Michigan about finished the Louisiana Tigers. Fifty were taken prisoners and fifty killed. Our loss ten killed and wounded."

Particulars of the Skirmish with the Louisiana Tigers.

HEADQUARTERS GENERAL MCCLELLAN,
May 24—P. M.

The driving of the Rebels from the vicinity of New Bridge by our artillery yesterday, was followed up to-day by a movement wholly unexpected to our adversaries.

A reconnoissance, composed of the 4th Michigan regiment, Col. Woodbury, and a squad of the 24 cavalry, Capt. Gordon, was made, which is worthy of special mention. Five companies of the 4th Michigan, under Lieut. Rowen, of the Topographical Engineers, and lieut. Custer, of the 5th cavalry, acting with the Topographical Corps, went out on a scout.

A detachment of this force, composed of 30 men, crossed the Chickahominy a short distance above New Bridge, and succeeded in getting between four companies of the 5th Louisiana regiment, who were out on picket duty at the bridge, and a brigade of the enemy, who were supporting them. In the meantime, the balance of the regiment and the squadron of cavalry approached the bridge from that side, thus attracting the attention of the four companies. The first knowledge the Rebels had of the near presence of an enemy was a volley from the 30 muskets at short pistol range, making havoc in their ranks and causing a serious panic. The main body of our troops advanced in front and opened a deadly fire. The result was 30 of the enemy were taken prisoners, 15 wounded, and between 60 and 70 left dead on the field. Among the prisoners taken was a Lieutenant. The loss on our side was one killed and one mortally and six slightly wounded. Lieut. Bowen had his horse shot under him during the skirmish.

The light brigade under General Stoneman and the brigade of General Davidson, of Smith's division, to-day advanced from New Bridge up the Chickahominy to Elion Mill, on Bell's Creek.—Here they encountered four regiments of the enemy's infantry with nine pieces of artillery and a command of cavalry. Of this force two regiments of infantry and three pieces of artillery were on the opposite side of the creek. The balance of the infantry, which was composed of the 8th and 9th Georgia regiments, under Gen. Howell Cobb, were posted in a favorable position to resist an advance to Mechanicsville. Pitar's and Robertson's batteries, of the 2d artillery, were quickly brought into action, and after firing some one hundred and fifty rounds the rebels withdrew with their guns to the village; not, however, until one of them had been dismounted. Here their retreat was covered by their infantry and cavalry. Four regiments of General Davidson's brigade with Wheeler's battery was then sent around, but night coming on they went into camp within six hundred yards of the enemy. At daylight the batteries on both sides opened, Wheeler's battery confining their fire to the shelling of the houses behind which the enemy's infantry were concealed. The fire proved too hot for the rebels, and they left the village, a portion retreating across the Chickahominy, the remainder falling back to the railroad. The 23d New York were the first to enter the village. The houses showed unmistakable evidence of the accuracy of our artillery, some of them being riddled in a dozen places. The enemy carried off all their killed and wounded, not one man excepted. Our loss was two killed and four wounded. Col. Mason, of the 5th Maine, was slightly injured by the explosion of a shell.

Gen. Stoneman now sent two squadrons of the 8th Illinois cavalry, under Major Clendenen, three miles further up the river, and caused to be burned the bridge of the Richmond and Fredericksburg Railroad.

Five Miles From Richmond.

Mechanicsville, which is now occupied by our troops, is five miles from Richmond. Gen. McClellan and Staff visited the newly acquired section of country.

This afternoon, a hack containing a lady, which left Richmond at 11 o'clock to-day, was captured by our cavalry picket, and brought to Gen. Stoneman's camp. The lady, who lived within our lines, was sent home.

Several contrabands came in from Richmond today. They had nothing to communicate but what is freely known.

The Richmond papers up to the 21st have been received in camp, but contain nothing new.

[STILL LATER.]

Gen. Negley's Brigade Makes Another Successful Advance.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
SUNDAY, May 25.

Gen. Negley's brigade is now encamped five miles beyond Bottom's bridge. To obtain this position they were forced to engage the Rebel General Stewart's brigade, composed of five regiments of infantry, one of cavalry, and two batteries. Our loss was one killed and six wounded. The officer killed among the Rebels was a Major, of the 4th Alabama, and sixty killed, as a boastful "on their dead were left on the field."

There is nothing of interest from the vicinity of Richmond to day. Contrabands, who come in, say that the inhabitants of Richmond are leaving as fast as they can for Danville. All those capable of bearing arms, were compelled to remain. Very few soldiers are in the city, all being in their camps.

Rebel Accounts of Federal Movements in Arkansas—Further from Vicksburg

[Following Southern papers contain the following:]

BRAWNSVILLE, Ark., May 17.—A gentleman just arrived from Learacy, who was made prisoner by the Federals, and was released at sundown on Wednesday, reports that twenty-five hundred Federals are camped opposite Learacy, on Watkins' farm, and about eight thousand at Little, seven miles from Learacy. All the Federals were low Dutch except the cavalry, numbering about four thousand, who were Americans. He saw no more while he was in their camp news was received of a Federal defeat at Corinth, accompanied by an order for them to return to Batesville, but they were determined to die by order. This gentleman also reports the Federals as out of provisions, and killing and eating all stock, and taking corn meal wherever they can find any.

He says it is their intention to advance and take Little Rock, but thinks they are afraid to undertake the job. He heard orders given in their camp after being dismounted by the Texans, not to take any prisoners, but to kill every man found under arms.

The Vicksburg *Citizen* of the 13th, says: Women and children are being removed to-day by the advice of General Smith, in advance of the approaching conflict with the enemy.

A despatch dated Madison, Arkansas, 17th, says: I arrived here last night from Cotton Plant. We have heard fighting at Cotton Plant with some of the Federals who were advancing on that place to get possession of the telegraph. We had a company of Captain Stephenson's men. After the fight on Wednesday, we found five Federals dead on the field. On Tuesday we killed two more—no casualties on our side. We captured four saddles, two swords, and several navy revolvers.

The Federals were still within two miles of Cotton Plant. We have not returning to-day with more force to give them another fight. We shall whip them sure.

LITTLE ROCK, May 17.—From Batesville we learn, through several reliable sources, that ten regiments of the enemy at Batesville have left for St. Louis via Ironton, and that all the Federal troops on this side of White river have recrossed that stream. The same force that required two days to cross to this side, crossed back in one night. It is reliably reported that but seven thousand Federals now remain at Batesville and Jacksonport.

Operations of Commodore Farragut on the Mississippi—Vicksburg Summoned to Surrender—other Southern News.

CAIRO, May 24.—A despatch from Halleck's headquarters, dated to-day, says:—The Memphis *Appeal* of the 22d instant says that Governor Pettus, of Mississippi, has called for four thousand armed men to rendezvous at Vicksburg, ammunition to be procured at the latter place.

VICKSBURG, May 21.—The Federal commander has ordered the removal of the women and children from this city in twenty-four hours. The Mayor has asked until Friday, the 23d.

8 o'clock, A. M.—There are ten boats below the city. The Brooklyn and Hartford passed Natchez this morning.

The Corinth correspondent of the *Appeal* deplores the death of Colonel Ingraham, of Van Dorn's staff, who, he says, was inhumanly butchered by the Federals in the skirmish on the 9th.

The same correspondent says that Beauregard is about to confer the order of the Southern Cross of Honor on the privates of the 9th Texas regiment for gallant conduct. They will be first to receive this much coveted badge of distinction.

The Vicksburg *Citizen* of the 18th says: The grocery stores are all moved away except one, and the stock in that will be exhausted in two or three days. It becomes a serious question where groceries will be procured after this.

The Raleigh *Register* says Mrs. Jeff. Davis arrived there on the 11th under the escort of Senator Gwynn, of California, accompanied by her four children, Mrs. Kearny, Jeff's niece, Mr. Gwynn, son and daughter.

A Jackson, Miss., despatch of the 18th, says:—Five Yankee gunboats arrived within range of our batteries at Vicksburg yesterday noon. The commander sent a flag of truce demanding the surrender of the city. We answered: "If you want the city, come and take it." The fleet then communicated with the commander of the Confederate troops, demanding, it is supposed; the surrender of our forts just below Vicksburg, which was promptly and pointedly refused. After this, the gunboats weighed anchor, and dropped down the river to bring up the the rest of the gunboats for the purpose of opening the bombardment.

Military Possession taken of all the Railroads in the United States.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—The following has just been issued:—

Ordered—By virtue of the authority vested by act of Congress, the President takes military possession of all the railroads in the United States, from and after this date, until further orders, and directs that the respective railroad companies, their officers and servants, shall hold themselves in readiness for the transportation of troops and munitions of war, as may be ordered by the military authorities, to the exclusion of all other business.

By order of the Secretary of War.

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General.

LATEST FROM GENERAL HALLECK.

CAIRO, May 24.—A despatch from Gen. Halleck's head-quarters, dated to-day, says:

A Sergeant and twenty-six men, deserters, arrived here last night.

For the last two nights nothing has transpired except picket skirmishing, and that quite light. It has been expected at head-quarters that Beauregard intended making a general attack, but found our left too strong.

The Memphis deserters unite in saying that he had his whole force outside of his entrenchments, and ordered a forward movement, but very suddenly count rmanded it. It is supposed that the appearance of our gunboats at Vicksburg was the cause.

Colonel Worthington, of the 5th Iowa, was accidentally killed by our pickets while going the grand round on Wednesday night.

It has rained for twenty hours, and the roads are bad.

Gen. Butler Firing the Southern Heart.

CAIRO, May 24.—The Memphis *Appeal's* Corinth correspondent says that Gen. Butler's infamous order has fired our army. All the Southern papers condemn what they call Butler's cowardly and infamous order which is given in the following General Order of Beauregard, found by one of our pickets:

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THIS ARMY.

The following General Order, No. 28, to the Federal officers of Major-General Butler, commanding at New Orleans, will be read at dress parade:

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
NEW ORLEANS, May 15.

As officers and soldiers of the United States have been subjected to repeated insults from the women, calling themselves "ladies of New Orleans," in return for the most scrupulous non interference and courtesy on our part, it is ordered hereafter that, when any female shall, by word, gesture, or movement, insult or show contempt for any officer or private of the United States, she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town, plying her avocation.

By command of Major-General Butler:

GEO. C. STRONG, A. A. G.

Men of the South! Shall our mothers, wives, daughters and sisters, be thus outraged by the ruffianly soldiers of the North, to whom is given the right to treat at their pleasure the ladies of the South as common harlots.

Arouse, friends, and drive back from our soil these infamous invaders of our houses and disturbers of our family ties.

[Signed.] G. T. BEAUREGARD,
General-Commanding.

From Norfolk and Fortress Monroe.

NORFOLK, May 24.—Four deserters came in from Petersburg this afternoon. They say that in consequence of the scarcity of provisions, the army in Richmond is much demoralized, and a great number of deserters occur daily. They say that fully one-half of the army would desert if they would have an opportunity. The army has been drawn in from all parts of the Confederacy, and it is intended to make a desperate resistance. The troops have received beef, but have been subsisting upon less than half rations.

Reconnoissance are frequently made from this place in all directions. A recent visit to the vicinity of Pig Point, discovered 17 guns in position at that place. They were not spiked and were in complete order. A large quantity of ammunition was also discovered there. Two 24-pound field-pieces, entirely new and mounted upon fine carriages, were seized, together with other articles a day or two ago in an agricultural warehouse in this city, which the owner had turned into a manufactory of such articles for the Confederate Government. A lot of guano was also seized recently which had been confiscated by the Confederate Government, and was delivered to the proper agents.

As soon as, in any way, a disposition is manifested by the city of Norfolk to return to its allegiance, whether by action of the City Council or by a public meeting of citizens, the port will be reopened and the old condition of things will be completely restored. No such disposition is yet manifested, however, but should Richmond be captured, hundreds of citizens of Norfolk would come out openly for the Union, and the re-establishment of old relations would not be delayed.

The embargo upon newspapers and all kinds of merchandise still continues, although the order is openly violated with the consent of the authorities. This being the case, it seems time, in reference to news papers, at least, that the order was rescinded.

This being Queen Victoria's birthday, the British steamer Kinfolk in this harbor has displayed her flags, and all soon fired a salute. The United States' war vessels also displayed the British ensign at the fore, and the American flags at all other points, in honor of the occasion. Business is very slowly recovering in Norfolk, but when the port is reopened, it is believed it will soon be, affairs will rapidly improve, and the great economic resources and suffering that have prevailed here will be relieved.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 24.—A north east storm commenced here this morning. The steamer George Peabody from Hatteras yesterday, for New York, put in for a harbor this afternoon. She has aboard the passengers and crew of the steamer Oriental. The steamer Eliza Perry, arrived from Newberne this afternoon, with six sick and wounded.

The American flag was raised in Raleigh, N. C., some three or four days ago, by the citizens. No particulars have been received. This news came by flag of truce.

On day before yesterday a party consisting of two companies of North Carolina cavalry and one company of infantry, visited Swift Creek, twelve miles from Newbern, where a Union meeting had recently been held, and arrested several Unionists, following the leaders of the movement, and taking them away with them. One of the men who was very loud in his expressions of Union sentiments, was taken into the woods by the enemy and hung till he was dead. The rest, when they were afterwards found by our troops, were almost dead.

A reconnoissance was made to Clinton, nineteen miles south of Newbern, a few days since, where the enemy's advance pickets were found and a skirmish ensued. We lost one man killed and four prisoners taken prisoners. We left nine of the enemy's dead on the field and took two prisoners.—The health and spirits of the troops at Newbern continue excellent.

Washington, North Carolina, has been occupied and a newspaper started there by the troops.

Capture of a Rebel Steamer.

CAPE GIRARDEAU, May 24.—Despatches from Colonel Daniels, of the 1st Wisconsin cavalry, dated Camp Lagrange, Dunklin county, contains account of the capture of the Rebel steamer Daniel E. Miller, in St. Francis river, with stores, provisions and a company of Rebel troops for Memphis. They captured the pickets and the boat also before it was out of rifle-shot. In return to our command to lay to, the enemy sent a volley of musketry. We then brought to bear upon them a 6-pounder, which, sending one shot through the hull and another through her wheel-house, killing Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis and one private, and wounding three others, caused the steamer to surrender. About sixty prisoners were taken, among whom was one Colonel. None of our troops were hurt.

Preparations for the Defence of Charleston.

CAIRO, May 24.—The Memphis papers contain the following:

The Charleston *Courier* of the 12th inst., congratulates the citizens of Charleston on being four times stronger than New Orleans. A large consignment of stones, from Columbia and the interior, iron chains and other materials will soon be on the way to aid in constructing a stone wall to block out the invaders from an approach to within shelling distance of the city.

Naval Orders.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—Lieut. D. McN. Fairfax has been detached from ordnance duty at Philadelphia, and ordered to report to Com. Paulding for command of the gunboat Cayuga. Horace K. Wheeler has been appointed assistant Surgeon, and ordered to report to Commodore Paulding. Martin E. Wandell, of West Troy, N. Y., has been appointed Master's Mate, and ordered to New York Navy-Yard.

The Latest from the Mississippi Flotilla.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The following was received to-night at the War Department:

CAIRO, May 24.—The steamer Alps arrived from the flotilla to day and reports all quiet. The rebel fleet which has been absent for several days has made its appearance at Fulton, three miles below Fort Pillow. There is nothing official from the fleet.

The Feeling at Washington.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—The city is intensely agitated by the intelligence from the valley of the Shenandoah and the circulation of mere rumors and speculations increase the excitement.

General Siegel.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—General Siegel has been invited by the Secretary of War to Washington to arrange a command for him.

From New Mexico.

ST. LOUIS, May 24.—The Arizona *Times* says that Sibley's command are dismounted, and in a starving condition. Two companies were cut off, and the rest were endeavoring to reach Santa Fe.

The Baltimore State Prisoners at Fort Warren to be Removed.

BOSTON, May 25th.—The political prisoners at Fort Warren are to be removed immediately to Fort Lafayette.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From the Washington Star of Saturday.

THE DISASTER AT FRONT ROYAL.

Col. Kenley's command, just defeated at Front Royal, consisted of his own Maryland regiment of infantry, and three or four companies of Col. Thornton Broadhead's regiment of Michigan cavalry. From all we can gather, we are satisfied that the attacking Confederate force consisted of a full brigade, and therefore outnumbered Col. K.'s three or four to one. Most of the cavalry are safe, though we fear that most of the infantry were captured. The force of Col. Kenley consisted of a single regiment of infantry and a single squadron of Michigan cavalry, and numbered, in all, from 1,000 to 1,100 men. A subsequent despatch from Strasburg brings intelligence that the Confederates certainly occupy Front Royal to-day. Thus the direct railroad communication with the main body of General Banks' force (via Manassas Junction) is temporarily cut off. The bridge at Front Royal will probably be burned again, before Gen. Banks can recognoise the point, which we take it for granted he will do as soon as he can march to it. Front Royal, it will be remembered, is on the Manassas Gap Railroad, between Manassas Junction and Strasburg, and some forty-five miles from the Junction.

SPEECH OF HON. BEN. WOOD, OF NEW YORK,

ON THE STATE OF THE UNION.

Mr. Wood obtained the unanimous consent of the House to have printed the following remarks:

Mr. WOOD—Mr. Chairman, I have hitherto avoided troubling this House. Content to be a listener, without any other participation in its proceedings than to oppose my solemn individual negative against measures which my conscience and my principles would not approve, I have said nothing. Indeed, sir, I have not had the heart to rise here and speak. A glance at this Hall, of itself, has been enough to prevent. When I look around and see one third of the Union unrepresented here, and find myself in a body, though purporting to be one branch of the Congress of the United States, really in fact but a fragmentary part of it, my heart sinks within me. It appears to be a sectional body—a gathering of the representatives of a sectional party. With these feelings, and with this spirit, I have until now avoided participating in debate.

Besides, sir, during the earlier period of this session, disaster had accompanied the efforts of the Federal armies. I felt that the hour of defeat was not the fit one in which to strive to awaken the great soul of the North to thoughts of peace; I felt that something was due to the sense of mortification, something to the natural desire to retrieve the shame of discomfiture. I hoped, too, that when victory should perch upon our banners, others than myself would seize the occasion to urge a plea in behalf of peaceable measures; and that this Government itself, feeling secure and strong enough to be magnanimous, would take the lead and be the pioneer in opening a path for the settlement of our difficulties without further resort to bloodshed. I even hoped that the leaders of the now dominant party, moved by the sore distress which has visited our country, would relent from the stern rigor of their doctrine of subjugation, and, in the flush of triumph, would lean a little towards a gentler policy than that which they have hitherto championed with so much zeal and with so little forbearance.

I hoped in vain. The triumph came; a long train of successes has relieved the North from its humiliation. The Government claims now to stand as a rock against which the tempest of opposition must waste itself in futile efforts. The partisans of the ultra war party laugh to scorn the idea that any effectual resistance can be offered to the onward march of our triumphant armies, and yet no single effort has been made in these Congressional Halls to stay the effusion of blood. It has been left for the conservatives as I am, to speak the first conciliatory word in behalf of our suffering countrymen. And I do it, sir, in the hope that others, more capable, will not be too much engrossed with the lust of conquest and the pride of victory to follow my example.

Sir, it is an inflexible reproach to those either deluded or wicked men who, in the North, by their unweared agitation of abolition schemes, have stirred the embers of discord into fierce heat, and have thus, through all the dark and bloody paths of this unnatural war, been the author of all the misery and crime which has been the germ of all the mischief. With the first news of the shouts of Federal victories they set up the echoing cry of emancipation. With all the energy of fanaticism, with all the subtle arts and intrigues of scheming demagogues, with all the appliances of cunning, intellect, and eloquence at their command, even at this eventful crisis, when every American brain should be at work to bring about a fair and honorable peace, they have not thought, no hope, no duty but to propagate their creed, extend their influence into every nook and cranny of the land, and poisoning the atmosphere of these sacred Halls with its interminable discussion. Operating in secret, by the agency of the press, the pulpit, and the political rostrum, in the camp, in the city, and in the open field, they are spreading the contagion; they are innoculating the country with this moral pestilence which has already brought us where we are, at the very brink of the gulf of ruin and perdition.

Sir, to these apostles of abolitionism will be traced hereafter whatever of evil has befallen or may befall our country. They have building its sepulchre with the bones of their slaughtered countrymen. I do believe there are gentlemen within my vision now, whose sworn purpose, whose first desire, paramount even to the preservation of the Union, is the emancipation. They and their disciples first threw the firebrand into the magazine. They first applied the torch, and are now more busy than ever with throwing fresh fuel to the flame. Should history ever trace, which God forbid, the record of this country's ruin, that page will seem the most appalling of all that read which shall tell of the madness and wickedness of the fanatics of abolitionism. In the dark recesses of the temple of infamy, the gloomiest niches will bear the inscription of their names.

Sir, I counsel none but a moral interference with the work of these mischief-makers. I would not have even the slightest unmerited infringement of the right of free speech, nor would I in any case, tolerate the slightest infringement of the liberty of the press. But when I see the seeds of their infamous doctrine broadcast over the land, I say, sir, I do not, I cannot, I will not countenance the spirit that would stifle a dictate to whisper the thoughts of my fellow countrymen.

But if the abominable theme must be brought into the council chambers of the nation, for the sake of decency, if not of justice, let it be at a more seasonable time. If there remain one Union man at the South, let us remember that he is unrepresented here; that the subject of slavery particularly concerns him, and that it is unconscionable and unjust, if not cowardly, to take advantage of his absence and silence to discuss and decide questions in regard to the local institutions of his section, measures against which, were he present, he would give his earnest opposition. It will quench whatever remains of Union feeling in the South, and that has already done so. It will destroy the last hope of a reconstruction of the Union on a friendly basis. It will prove what has been intimated, that the first idea of the domestic party in the North is hatred of the South, rather than love for good or to slavery, and a fixed purpose to legislate out of the land at all hazards. Is it with that theory and that purpose we are to conquer a peace? Sir, we are flinging away the fairest chance for reconciliation as rashly as the madman cast their treasure into the sea. The agitation of the subject has been the country's bane at every period of its history; its discussion at this crisis is madness and ruin.

Sir, there may be a fascination in the gory magnificence of war. There may